Indian Missile Programme

469. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian missile development programme has entered the production phase ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Production Facilities have been established for the production of 'Prithvi' and Trishul' missile system at BDL, DGOF, BEL, HAL, BHVP and ECIL. These facilties are being used, at present forlimtied production to suppr development test progra mine.

Fee Structure of Sainik Schools

470. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(e) whether fee structure for Sainik School students varies from State to State depending on the parent's income;

(b) whether Government propose to br>ng about uniformity in all the States regarding norm for the fee structure on the basis of parents' income; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the students of such vital institutions for Defence establishments are not treated at par in all respects with students of Navodaya Vidyalayas; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The fee structure in Sainik Schools does not vary from State to State. However, the eligibility criteria for scholarships (other than Defence scholarships) varies from State to State. It is not possible to introduce uniformily to this regard as the payment of uu-jh scholarship is primarily the responsibility of the Government who have laid down the eligibility criteria.

(c) and (d) The Sainik School scheme is different from the concept of Navodaya Vidyalayas. It is, there fore, not possible to have similar arrangements in respect of fees etc.

Impact of Devaluation of LCA Project

471. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to stete:

(a) what is the impact of devaluation of Indian rupee on the cost of the LCA Project; and

(b) how the escalation in cost is compatible with the aim of developing an indigenous low cost Aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Estimated foreign exchange content in the Light Combat Aircraft Project cost in Feb. 1991 before rupee devaluation was Rs. 805 crores. In Oct. 1991 taking into account rupee devaluation and FE crunch, an exercise was undertaken to reduce FE requirements by way of greater indigenisation effort. The revised FE content on post devaluation rupee exchange rate, is estimated to be Rs. 873 crores viz., a net increase of Rs. 68 crores.